

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

- CB
- (b) a guard band laser arranged concentric to the main laser and generating a guard band beam;
- WZ (c) receiver spaced from the laser for receiving the guard band beam;
- B1 (d) a trigger circuit coupled to the guard band receiver, the trigger circuit generating a signal upon interruption of the guard band; and
- (e) means responsive to the trigger circuit for altering the performance of the main beam upon interruption of the guard band beam.

4. (Amended) A laser system having improved signal continuity and safety, comprising:

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- (a) a laser including an energy source and optical surface in a chamber coupled to an energy pump and providing a laser beam;
- (b) a guard laser concentric with the laser including an energy source and an optical surface in a chamber coupled to an energy pump and providing a guard beam surrounding the laser beam as a protective layer;
- (c) a receiver spaced from the laser comprising a central lens for receiving the laser beam and coupled to the laser;
- (d) an annular, segmented set of mirrors and lenses surrounding the central lens as a set of parallel receivers for receiving the guard laser beam;
- (e) a trigger circuit connected to the set of parallel receivers for generating a signal upon interruption of the guard beam; and
- (f) means responsive to the trigger circuit for altering the laser beam upon interruption of the guard beam.